



CITY OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA

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MAYOR ANNOUNCES 'WALL OF SHAME' HIGHLIGHTING OWNERS OF DERELICT PROPERTIES

READING, PA – Reading Mayor Thomas M. McMahon today announced today that he is posting a 'Wall of Shame' on the city's web site to highlight derelict properties and their owners.

McMahon made the announcement at noon today in front of a residence at 328 Pear Street. The property is one of 13 that has been the focus of the city's Blighted Property Review Committee since last year, and work to begin to demolish the property began after McMahon's announcement.

"We are ramping up our focus on irresponsible property owners that are bringing blight into our city neighborhoods," McMahon said. "For 2010, we have 60 properties in our sites, and 10 of them have been formally brought into the process to be designated as blighted properties. Like this property at 328 Pear, if owners don't respond we will take every action necessary to remove the blight, including tearing properties down."

The 'Wall of Shame' shows properties determined to be blighted in 2009, properties that are on the path for formal determination of blighted status in 2010, and 50 properties that are currently candidates for such designation.

"I say this to owners of derelict properties in our city: you can run, but you cannot hide," McMahon said. "As of today, you are on the 'Wall of Shame' and the whole world will know who you are and what you are doing to our neighborhoods and City. Make no mistake about it – we are coming after you."

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